fallen syndicate

PRESENTS

the demon prince of the momochi house

BY SHOUOTO AYA

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USHA
TRANSLATING:
TAKINE
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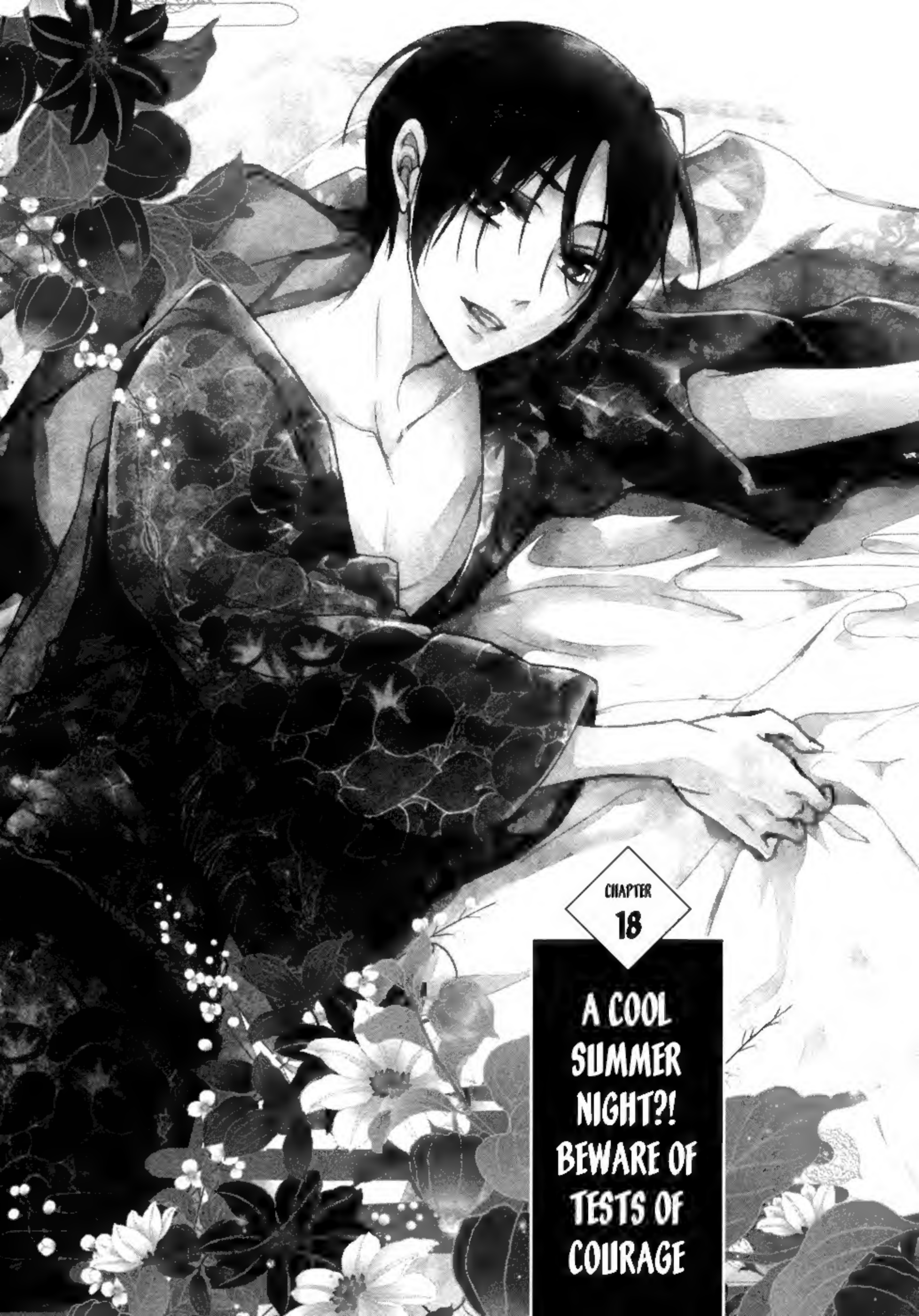

CHAPTER
18

A COOL SUMMER NIGHT?! BEWARE OF TESTS OF COURAGE

百千さん家のあやかし王子

Hyakusen-san Chi no Ayakashi Ouji

AHH!

SFX: FLUFFY, FLUFFY

SFX: CRACKING UP

YOU WON'T STOP GETTING INTO TROUBLE, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.

WHAT THE HECK?!

SO I THOUGHT MAYBE TYING YOU UP WOULD WORK.

Maybe another one for your legs...

SO UNFAIR!

SFX: POUT

DID YOU FORGET YOUR PUNISHMENT?

SFX: FLUFFY FLUFFY

NO MORE ARGUING.

Ahh.!!

It's too ticklish!

ugh ...

I thought it had already been solved...

Does he mean the incident with Nue?

SFX: FLUFFY

...REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU, HIMARI. UNDERSTAND?

I WAS...

...GOT IT?

SFX: DASH

...SHE ESCAPED.

I HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL!

...OO-

SFX: BLUSH

SFX: NOISY

I'M BEGGING YA! GRANT MY WISH!

RECOM-MEND ME A LUCKY CHARM!

PLEASE! GIVE ME A TALISMAN TOO!

Um, what's this all of a sudden?!

MO-MO-CHI!!!

?

It's not like I wanted...

...to do anything dangerous either.

AREN'T AOI AND YUKARI A LITTLE OVER-PROTECTIVE?

HASN'T HIDAKA GOTTEN A LITTLE FRIENDLIER RECENTLY?

I SPOKE TO SOMEONE WHO KNEW...

ME?

EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT YOU AT SCHOOL!

AND THEY SAID THAT IT WAS BECAUSE MOMOCHI GOT RID OF HIDAKA'S CURSE!

I must have unwittingly helped him that time...

OH...

EVERYONE'S SAYING YOU'RE A **SUPER SPIRIT MEDIUM...!**

WHAT?!

TELL ME WHAT'LL BE IN TOMORROW'S QUIZ!

MY SHOULDER'S BEEN REALLY STIFF LATELY...!

ME TOO! TELL ME MY LUCKY COLOR FOR THIS MONTH!

I WAS CHEATED ON AGAIN, SO PLEASE HELP ME!

How has it come to this?!

Wait a minute! I'm really not that kind of medium!

SFX: PAT

THE TEACHER SAID WE WILL BE QUIZZED ON PAGES 12 TO 20!

ROTATE YOUR SHOULDER LIKE THIS! IT REALLY WORKS!

I THINK GREEN REALLY SUITS YOU, UCHIYAMA!

BEING CHEATED ON SUCKS!

Right, Aoi?

SCARY THINGS LIKE AYAKASHI AND SPIRITS...

...AREN'T MEANT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

SO—
SO WHAT IF I AM?! EVEN I READ SOMETIMES!

OH? HIMARI'S ACTUALLY READING A BOOK?

...Or so he said.

A—
AOI!

LET ME SEE...

"100 QUICK AND PRACTICAL CHARMS?"

Everything on the quiz was just as she'd predicted...!

I tried out that "rotating shoulder spell", and my shoulders feel so light!

After using a green stamp, my postcard got picked for a reader present!

Amazing! After Momochi tapped my boyfriend on the shoulder, he became less of a flirt!

I thought I could just ignore the rumors...

WHAT'S THIS?

WELL...

...But the coincidences started piling up, and the rumors spread even further.

THEIR PROBLEMS STARTED GETTING MORE COMPLICATED, TOO...

Even though I said I didn't have that power...

SFX: SIGH

MOMOCHI, YA GOTTA HEAR MY PROBLEMS!

MOMOCHI, HELP ME TOO!

SFX: CROWDED

DON'T DO ANYTHING DANGEROUS, OKAY?

SFX: BA-THUMP

This sort of book won't help, either.

CAN'T YOU JUST TURN THEM DOWN?

I JUST TRANSFERRED SCHOOLS, SO I DON'T WANT TO SEEM RUDE...

Just the shape of it though...

Besides, there's a saying that a rumor only lasts 75 days...

A TEST OF COURAGE?

UM...

I GUESS I WILL.

Huh...?

YAY!

IT'S ON!

EH...

IF MOMOCHI GOES, WILL YOU GO TOO?

HIDAKA!

I'M NOT REALLY... THAT STRONG OF A SPIRIT MEDIUM...

YUP!

OUR GROUP WANTED TO MAKE SOME SUMMER MEMORIES TOGETHER.

THIS TIME, WE'RE VISITING THE STONE FACE ON RENGE RIDGE DURING THE FULL MOON.

WE WERE THINKING OF INVITING YOU ALONG AS OUR PILLAR OF COURAGE!

Could it be that everyone wanted Hayato to come along...?

HIMARI.

YEAH?

SORRY ABOUT THAT. IT SEEMS LIKE ALL THE RUMORS STARTED BECAUSE I SPOKE ABOUT YOU.

I'LL HELP YOU OUT WITH THIS.

Huh? No, it's noth-ing...

-SFX BLUSH

SFX LOOK UP

...AND BECAUSE OF THAT,

I'LL BE JOINING THE TEST OF COURAGE...

I couldn't get myself out of that one...!

SFX BLUNT

I'M AGAINST IT.

I knew it.

BE-SIDES, IT HASN'T BEEN LONG SINCE THE INCIDENT WITH THE FOX MASK.

SINCE HAYATO'S COMING, I'M A LITTLE WORRIED FOR HIM...

THE AYAKASHI ARE OUT TO GET THE MOMOCHI BLOOD IN YOU, HIMARI.

A TEST OF COURAGE IS OUT OF THE QUESTION.

BUT...

IF ANYTHING SEEMS EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT DANGEROUS, I WAS THINKING I COULD GET THEM TO STOP...

SFX SURPRISED

...HAYATO?

YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HAYATO.

HMM...

HMM ...

THAT'S RIGHT!

SO IF AOI COULD JUST TAG ALONG LIKE YOU DID LAST TIME, NOTHING WILL GO WRONG!

NOT A CHANCE.

Wha-?!

I WON'T HELP OUT THIS TIME.

SINCE I'M AGAINST YOU GOING FOR THE TEST OF COURAGE...

Aoi?!

SFX SHUT

The day of the test of courage.

THE STONE FACE ON RENRI RIDGE IS SAID TO SPEAK ON THE NIGHT OF THE FULL MOON.

WE HAVE TO MAKE THE CLIMB UP AND BACK USING JUST ONE CANDLE.

WAIT...

SFX: RUSH

ドキュ

STOP THAT! AHAHA!

NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, AREN'T THERE OTHER RUMORS ABOUT THE RENRI RIDGE?

YUP! DID I MIX THEM UP? SILLY ME!

SO IT'S THE RENRI RIDGE INSTEAD OF RENGE?

SFX: TBA-THUMP

LET'S GET GOING!

Going into the darkness with just one candle...

タ?ン タ?ン タ?ン

SFX: STEP, STEP, STEP

...AOI.

SFX STEP STEP STEP

AOI.

I'M THINK-ING.

YOU'VE BEEN PACING NON-STOP FOR SOME TIME.

BUT CAN'T I FIND ANY-THING...

I TRIED LOOKING UP THE TALISMAN THAT WAS ATTACHED ONTO THE DRAGON LORD...

...THAT TIME AT THE SPRING.

YOU'VE BEEN STARING AT THE SAME PAGE THE WHOLE TIME.

I'VE BEEN CONCERNED ABOUT THAT AS WELL, BUT...

I'M JUST WORRIED THAT IT WON'T BE SCARY ENOUGH FOR A REAL TEST OF COURAGE.

THE RIDGE THAT HIMARI AND THE OTHERS ARE GOING TO IS ACTUALLY INHABITED BY PEACEFUL AYAKASHI.

...IT'S NOTH-ING.

IT'S NOT LIKE I'M WORRIED.

I GET IT.

I KNOW THAT.

HAYATO'S A GOOD KID.

I CAN'T STEP OUT OF THIS HOUSE TO BE BY HIMARI'S SIDE...

SO HAVING THAT BOY THERE MIGHT BE A GOOD THING.

...I JUST...

I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY I'M FEELING LIKE THIS...

HEY, MOMOCHI...

IS AOI REALLY MAD?

NO ANS-WER..

ただ今 おやすみ中...

Pi.Pi.Pi.

SFX: STARTLE

WH-WHAT'S THAT? ALL OF A SUDDEN...

WELL, IT'S A LITTLE SCARY IF WE DON'T TALK.

SO, WHAT'S HE LIKE?

HUUH?!

DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU LIKE?

...UM...

WELL, HE'S KIND...

HE ACTS A LITTLE SPOILED AT TIMES, BUT...

HE'S ALSO REALLY COOL...

HE DOESN'T REALLY TALK MUCH ABOUT IMPORTANT THINGS...

EVEN IF YOU ASK ME ABOUT HIM...

I... I DON'T REALLY KNOW.

I am...

...talking about Aoi, aren't I...?

HEY~

HMM.

HUH?!

HIDAKA? NO, YOU'VE GOT IT WRONG...!

BY 'HE', DO YOU MEAN HIDAKA?

What's this...?

OH, YEAH.

HIMARI, YOU'LL GET LOST IF YOU LAG BEHIND. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

SFX JOLT

SFX RUSTLE

!?

SOMETHING COLD JUST GRABBED MY LEG!

MOMOCHI, HELP ME!!

WHAT HAP-PENED?!

!!AAAA!!

What's with this weird atmos-phere...?

SFX PUSH

!?

HUH? WHERE IS IT—

SFX RUST.F

SOME-THING'S PULLING ON MY HAIR!

KYA AA!

IT'S FINE! JUST SOME FROGS.

SFX PUSH

MOMOCHI, HELP HER OUT!

!?

SFX RUSTLE

SFX CRASH

OOPS, SORRY.

UGH,

MY HAIR'S CAUGHT...

IT'S NOTHING. MOMOCHI'S JUST FOOLING AROUND!

WHAT'S THE RUCKUS?

ACK!

SFX. FALL

WATCH OUT FOR YOUR FEET!

OH, MO-MOCHI,

SFX PUSH

SFX WHISPER

ワス

...That Momochi was such a klutz!

I didn't real-ize...

SFX WHISPER, WHISPER

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

SFX: MESSY

I'LL... I'LL MAKE IT...

IT'S DARK AT THE BACK, SO IT'S HARD TO SEE YOUR FEET.

YOU'D BETTER STAY BY MY SIDE.

NOPE, I'M GOOD! DON'T WORRY!

Doing that will make this worse!

SFX- GASP

OH,

I SEE THE STONE! WE'RE AT THE TOP!

I'm saved...!

SFX FRIGHTENED

NOT YET. THE CHARM WON'T WORK IF THE STONE DOESN'T LAUGH...

SFX. RUNNING

WE DID IT! AND WE MADE IT WITH JUST ONE CANDLE!

WE'D BETTER GET BACK BEFORE THE CANDLE GOES OUT.

WE DONE HERE?

THAT'S IT.

THE STONE FACE...

HUH? WELL, I DON'T REALLY CARE...

YOU NEVER KNOW; THE STONE MIGHT START LAUGHING!

BUT...

SFX CRUMBLE

SFX: PUSHY

Well.

It doesn't really look like anything.

NO THANKS, I'M GOOD.

HEY, HIDAKA. WANNA TAKE A LOOK AT THE STONE TOGETHER?

HIMARI!!

WATCH OUT!!

SFX PUSH

SFX CRACKLING

IT'S LAUGHING...

IS THAT THE WIND?

IS...

WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

SFX CACKLING

SFX CRACKING

AHH!

.....!?

THE STONE FACE IS LAUGHING...

HOW DID YOU GET THAT WOUND ON YOUR HAND?

HUH?

OH, IT'S NOTHING! IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.

HIMARI, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

YEAH, WHAT JUST HAP-PENED?

SFX DASH

LET'S JUST GET OUT OF HERE!

DON'T LOOK BACK! WATCH YOUR FEET!

IT'S TOO DARK TO SEE THE PATH!

THE LAUGHTER'S FOLLOWING US!

SFX CACKLING

HIMARI, CAN YOU SEE ANYTHING?

I CAN HEAR THE LAUGHING TOO.

Something doesn't feel right.

Is the laughter the work of an ayakashi?

SFX FALL

SFX TRIP

NOMO-TO!

NO...

I CAN ONLY HEAR LAUGHTER.

SFX CACKLING

SFX: WAH!

STOP IT STOP IT!

EVERY-ONE, CALM DOWN!

YEAH! WE WEREN'T PLANNING TO...

We're being followed by the voice, but I can't see what's causing it.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? CAN YOU WALK?

IT'S NOT MY FAULT THAT THE STONE STARTED LAUGHING! I HATE THIS!

I'VE HAD IT! I CAN'T DO THIS!!

SFX: CACKLING

LET'S GO TO MOMOCHI'S HOUSE.

What's behind this...?

...WHAT DO WE DO?

WHA...

HUH?

I DIDN'T SAY THAT.

CAN WE GO TO YOUR HOUSE?

BESIDES, MY HOME'S PRETTY FAR...

SFX. WHOOSH

THE MOMOCHI... HOUSE...

How... When did we end up so close by?

SFX: CACKLING

MOMOCHI, PLEASE ..!

PLEASE, MAKE IT STOP!

HAYA-TO...!

LET US IN...

I've no choice.

LET'S HEAD INSIDE.

...FINE.

I'LL HEAD BACK DOWN TO GET OUR LIGHTS AND STUFF.

EVERYONE, HEAD ON IN AND REST UP.

GOT IT.

SFX: EEK

CUT IT OUT!

IT'S LIKE A HAUNTED HOUSE...

IT'S SO OLD... AND SO BIG.

The laughter stopped following us...

WO OW...

SFX: CREAK

It's quiet in here...

Maybe everyone's asleep.

SFX SLIDE

I'LL GET SOME TEA.

YOU GUYS WAIT HERE!

OKAY~ DON'T WORRY ABOUT US!

...LEAVE THIS ROOM, ALRIGHT?

YOU CAN'T EVER...

SFX SHUT

I CAN'T HAVE AOI AND THE OTHERS WAKE UP

SFX SIGH

THE HECK?

SHE'S CLEARLY TRYING TO SCARE US.

HUH,

WERE YOU ALRIGHT, NOMOTO?

I HEARD LAUGHTER COMING FROM HER.

WHA~ AT?

I'M COMPLETELY FINE. THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS ANYWAY.

BESIDES, THAT "LAUGHTER" WAS JUST MOMOCHI ALL ALONG.

COME ON, IT WAS AN ACT.

I THOUGHT HIDAKA WOULD COME AND HELP ME UP OR SOME-THING.

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU! WEREN'T YOU SCARED?

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

I BET SHE WAS TRYING TO SCARE US WITH THAT.

I SAW HER HIDING HER PHONE WITH THAT WEIRD WOOD-PATTERNED COVER.

SFX SLIDE

HIDAKA IS DEFINITELY BEING TRICKED BY HER.

THE STONE FACE'S CHARM WAS RUINED BY THAT GIRL.

SFX STEP

YUP.

I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. WE HAVE TO MAKE HIDAKA REALIZE SHE'S A SHAM.

NOW'S THE TIME TO FIND EVIDENCE AND EXPOSE HER AS THE FAKE SPIRITUAL MEDIUM SHE IS!

SFX CREAK

IT'S KINDA SCARY. .

ISN'T IT TOO COLD FOR SUMMER?

THE AIR CONDITION-ING'S PROBABLY TURNED ON TO CREATE A SPOOKY ATMOS-PHERE..

DID MOMOCHI LEAVE HER BAG BY THE DOORWAY AROUND HERE?

IT'S JUST A BRANCH.

BUT... I'M SURE I SAW IT...

I SAW IT! I SAW SOMEONE HANGING UPSIDE DOWN...!!

DON'T JUST SCREAM LIKE THAT!

AARR GHH!!

SFX FREEZE

...HEY, DO YOU GUYS HEAR FOOT-STEPS...?

NO?

SFX TREADING

SOMETHING COLD JUST BRUSHED AGAINST MY SHOUL-DER...!

IT'S PROBABLY JUST A LEAKY ROOF!

THE FOOTSTEPS ARE COMING CLOSER...

SFX FOOTSTEPS

I'VE HAD IT! I'M GOING HOME!!

WAIT! IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING...

SFX: FALL

AAAHH!!

SFX: RUNNING

GUYS?!

WHAT HAP-PENED?!

WHA...

I'M—

WHOA~ THAT FELT GREAT!

YOUR FRIENDS WERE MISBEHAVING, SO I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FINE TO TEACH THEM A LITTLE LESSON.

THEY'VE BEEN PUT TO SLEEP WITH THIS INCENSE, SO PERHAPS THEY'LL FORGET EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED HERE.

I'M SORRY! I KNOW I SHOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT FRIENDS OVER THIS LATE...

I'M REALLY SORRY!

Nue's really pissed off...

THAT ASIDE...

WHERE DID YOU GET THAT?

Huh...

!?

SFX: BURST

SFX CACKLING

ﾌﾄ

The Stone Face?!

!?

SFX BALLOON

WITHIN A WEEK, YOU MUST KISS THE PERSON...

...WHO YOU TOUCHED THE STONE WITH...

...OR YOU'LL DIE.

SFX: LAUGHING

HIMARI ...

COULD IT BE THAT THE LAUGHTER THAT WAS FOLLOWING US... WAS THIS?

YOU DIDN'T GO TO THE RENGE RIDGE...

BUT INSTEAD, THE RENRI RIDGE...

THE CURSE THAT YOU HAVE IS—

I'M THE LOVE♥ FULFILLMENT CHARM! ☆

WHAAT?!

WHAT... NO...!

THE PERSON I TOUCHED THE STONE WITH...

I HAVE TO KISS HAYA-TO?!

CHAPTER 18: A COOL SUMMER NIGHT?! BEWARE OF TESTS OF COURAGE

END

百千さん家のあやかし王子

AYAKASHI OUJI FAMILY

百千さん家のあやかし王子

AYAKASHI OUJI TO HYAKUSEN-SAN CHI